

**Statement by Thomas J. Tweedy
Mayor, Inc. Village of Floral Park
At Long Island Rail Road Scoping Hearing
May 24, 2016**

The speed with which the plans for seven grade crossings and 9.8 miles of new express track through some of the most densely populated and mature communities borders on the incomprehensible. The Governor asked the community leaders in Western Nassau County to listen to the State's representatives in developing this plan. We have listened and shared our concerns but our participation should not be inferred as consent. The only way this plan could move this quickly is because it is the same plan as that presented 10 years ago. If it is the same plan why is this not under the oversight of the Federal Transit Administration now? Scoping testimony and documents have already been provided 10 years ago. Why should those who testified 10 years ago be disenfranchised, why should they be ignored? We would accept that testimony as the State's scoping document is non responsive. Floral Park sat with the State's reps three times yet none of our concerns are contained or addressed in this scoping document. Where is the track alignment, what is the right of way, what is the drainage plan, what parking will be lost building new superstructure to support new bridges, what operational benefits will be achieved or will we bear all the burden and derive none of the benefit? What impact will this plan have on our Recreation Center. When we began considering the development of our new Pool Complex in 2013 we looked at the MTA/LIRR's 5 year and 20 year Capital Programs, there were no budget proposals for any Mainline Capital Improvement. Without disclosing track alignment or the Means and Methods intended for the construction of this new track one can only assume the worst and despite due

diligence by The Village and Cameron Engineering, our Architect, our Pools shells and our Village's investment are at risk.

At our adjacent Recreation Center: what is the visual impact as the train roars along on top of the retaining wall with baseball and hockey games right below, will there be walls to lessen the visual impact or address sound attenuation as trains roar beside our residents' homes and Recreation Center. We spent 18 months designing and mobilizing a new Pool Complex which was built in 9 months, opening on time and on budget – even through the brutal winter of 2014. This was possible due to good planning. To date there is little comparable planning, unless of course it is the same plan as 10 years ago. It is not our role to design your Track, it is yours to disclose. We did as the Governor requested, however we do not believe the justification for the Third Track has been achieved when compared to the incremental and less onerous LIRR proposals to address improvements and train movements along the Main Line, this combined with the lack of transparency and the segmentation strategy employed by the State's planning reps is disturbing. Given the size and scope of this Megaproject we respectfully request an extension of the scoping comment period to 90 days, additional scoping hearings be convened in both Mineola and Floral Park, the disclosure of all plans and finally we request that the oversight of this project be returned to the FTA.

This is not a different plan and if it is show us.